



Alpharetta Natural Resources
Commission Meeting
JUNE 20, 2023
OFFICIAL MINUTES

ALPHARETTA CITY HALL
2 PARK PLAZA | 6:30 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

This action summary is provided as a convenience and service to the public, media, and staff. It is not the intent to record proceedings verbatim. Any reproduction of this summary must include this notice. This is not an official record of the Alpharetta Natural Resources Commission Meeting proceedings.

Meeting called to Order 6:30 pm. in the Executive Conference Room #121

II. ROLL CALL AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Present were:

Commissioners: Geri Chapple, Dan Mitnick, Ben Manley, Clifford Martin, and Beth Ott

Staff: Terry Porter

Volunteer: Arata Watanabe

Special Guest: James Drinkard

III. WORK SESSION ITEMS

a. GREEN CELL Presentation

Gentlemen from Green Cell made a presentation for 63 minutes. They are a volunteer-driven group, passionate about raising awareness of human-created environmental issues and promoting conscious consumerism. Information booths, workshops, volunteer events, and associations with many organizations became their way to raise awareness and demonstrate easy-to-adapt solutions.

The issue of food waste and composting is one of their initiatives. They have created their own composting sites to help reduce organic waste that would otherwise go to landfills. They would like to work with the NRC to help further sustainability in the community. It is felt that having a booth once a month at the Farmers Market would help educate the community regarding the value of composting. Eventually they would like to reach the Taste of Alpharetta. The Old Rucker Farm would be another potential partnership especially for composting. James will set up a meeting to introduce them to Amanda Musilli to discuss joint venturing opportunities with Green Cell.

Green Cell's Youth Programs empower the next generation to come up with innovative solutions to initiate social change. Through service-based learning and STEAM, our youth volunteers are given the guidance they need to grow as individuals, become leaders, and ultimately make a tremendous impact in the community. Wills Park and schools might be other potential opportunities for collaboration.

b. James Drinkard Presentation

James will be present at more of our meetings as we become more public. Alpharetta is the 9th largest City in Georgia. He will help to elevate the NRC environmentally and culturally linking into some of the things now happening with city programs and projects. He wants to see the NRC making presentations to the City Council at least two times each year. Terry and David are the main staff positions for the NRC. James will help, as his role with the City is evolving. Ryan Thomas is handling City Projects and implementation. James will primarily handle Communications. He now has a full time assistant, Diana. James will meet with Terry and David to develop a plan for the NRC.

c. Staff Reports

- i. Arborist Report – No updates
- ii. Environmental Programs Report by Terry Porter

Past Events

- A bird walk was presented on June 17th at Webb Bridge Park. The walk was led by Georgia Audubon volunteer Ms. Roseanne Guerra. The walk was part of a series hosted by Alpharetta's NRC and the Rucker Road Farm.
- Met Life Volunteers did a storm drain stenciling project in the Greenmont Walk Subdivision on May 17th. This program focuses on water quality awareness and preventing non-point source pollution in our streams and creeks.
- AMDOCS accomplished a beautification project in Roundabout Park on May 19th. Roundabout Park borders Haynes Bridge Road at the roundabout by Publix. Amdocs volunteers planted and mulched 35 3-gallon shrubs as part of a phased planting plan. Their work resulted in a great enhancement to the park. Terry also thanked Will Eberly, David Shostak, Lindsey Ann and Arata for their help with this project.
- McKibbin Places volunteers did several projects in Rock Mill Park on June 2nd. They refreshed the trial model planters and did extensive weeding and mulching of a bioretention pond.

Future Events for Summer and Fall

- September Community Shredding and Recycling Collection
- September Computer and Electronics Recycling Collection
- 10/14/2023 Rivers Alive Volunteer Cleanup
- 10/28/2023 Bird Walk
- November America Recycles Month
- November Household Hazardous Waste and Paint Collection

d. Committee Reports

- i. **Clean Waterways by Dan Mitnick**

Dan Discussed the cost of drinking water treatment and how much each function typically uses. He also believes that education about water conservation practices is a major component of preserving our shared water resources.

- ii. **Recycling and Sustainability by Beth Ott**

Beth decided to hold the report she prepared until the next meeting due to time. She mentioned that she met Charlie Lancelot recently and would like to have a conversation with him regarding recycling and sustainability issues. He has been mentioned in local articles regarding his expertise in plastics recycling.

- iii. **Wildlife- Alpharetta's Wild Side by Clifford Martin**

Cliff Discusses the Bird Walk in Webb Bridge Park. The walk was very well attended. About 25 variety of birds were observed and heard using the MERLIN app that can ID each variety of bird by sound. The next bird walk will be in October on the Big Creek

Greenway.

iv. **Tree Canopy and Preservation by Ben Manly**

Ben and Kate met with David about our Tree Ordinance, and the permitting process. They will next meet with James.

IV. APPROVAL OF MAY MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the May minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

V. NEW BUSINESS

None

VI. OLD BUSINESS

None

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

Next meeting date will be July 18, 2023. The 6:30pm meeting will begin in the Community Room of City Hall for workshop items. Formal meeting will occur afterwards in the Council Chambers.

IX. ADJOURNEMENT

Meeting ended at 8:45pm